

CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CALIFORNIA AND NEVADA MEDICAL ASSOCIATIONS

VOL. 45

JULY, 1936

NO. 1

California and Western Medicine

Owned and Published by the

CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Four Fifty Sutter, Room 2004, San Francisco, Phone DOuglas 0062

Address editorial communications to Dr. George H. Kress as per address above; advertising and business communications to Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. Frederick C. Warnshuis, also at above address.

EDITOR GEORGE H. KRESS

Advertisements.—The Journal is published on the seventh of the month. Advertising copy must be received not later than the fifteenth of the month preceding issue. Advertising rates will be sent on request.

BUSINESS MANAGER . FREDERICK C. WARNSHUIS

Advertising Representative for Northern California
L. J. FLYNN, 544 Market Street, San Francisco (DOuglas 0577)

Copyright, 1936, by the California Medical Association

Subscription prices, \$5 (\$6 for foreign countries); single copies, 50 cents.

Volumes begin with the first of January and the first of July. Subscriptions may commence at any time.

Change of Address.—Request for change of address should give both the old and the new address. No change in any address on the mailing list will be made until such change is requested by county secretaries or by the member concerned.

Responsibility for Statements and Conclusions in Original Articles.—Authors are responsible for all statements, conclusions and methods of presenting their subjects. These may or may not be in harmony with the views of the editorial staff. It is aimed to permit authors to have as wide latitude as the general policy of the journal and the demands on its space may permit. The right to reduce or reject any article is always reserved.

Contributions—Exclusive Publication.—Articles are accepted for publication on condition that they are contributed solely to this journal.

Contributions—Length of Articles: Extra Costs.—Original articles should not exceed three and one-half pages in length. Authors who wish articles of greater length printed must pay extra costs involved. Illustrations in excess of amount allowed by the Council are also extra.

Leaflet Regarding Rules of Publication.—CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE has prepared a leaflet explaining its rules regarding publication. This leaflet gives suggestions on the preparation of manuscripts and of illustrations. It is suggested that contributors to this Journal write to its office requesting a copy of this leaflet.

DEPARTMENT INDEX

(Itemized Index of Articles is printed on Front Cover)

	PAGE
Editorials	1
Editorial Comment	4
Original Articles	5
Lure of Medical History	58
Clinical Notes and Case Reports	61
Bedside Medicine	65
California Medical Association	69
C. M. A. Department of Public Relations	101
Woman's Auxiliary to C. M. A.	103
News	105
Letters	108
Special Articles	109
Twenty-Five Years Ago; State Examining Board	112
Index to Advertisements	Adv. p. 8

EDITORIALS†

CORONADO ANNUAL SESSION OF 1936

Proceedings of the San Diego-Coronado Annual Session.—San Diego newspaper comments, reprinted in last month's issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE (pp. 537-540), afforded some views of the laity on happenings at this year's session of the California State Association at Coronado. The current journal presents, on pages 69 and 93, more detailed minutes of the House of Delegates, the Council, and the first general session.

Members of the Association interested in the policies adopted or emphasized at Coronado should read the official record of the transactions, to better acquaint themselves with what was done. This suggestion is made particularly to officers of component county societies, since they are the officials who may be called upon to interpret, from the standpoint of the new regulations, matters of conduct or ethics.

The Coronado-San Diego session measured up in excellent fashion to the successful and enjoyable meetings held in previous years at the Hotel del Coronado; and, as in former days, those who attended were recipients of the gracious hospitality from the San Diego County Medical Society, to whose members appreciation and thanks are expressed for the many courtesies extended.

* * *

California Medical Association's Change of Attitude on Health Insurance.—If one outstanding feature of the attitude of the Coronado House of Delegates, on matters of major policy, deserves mentioning, it would be this: that evidently a somewhat radical change of front concerning health insurance is quite apparent in the California Medical Association, as compared with points of view to which strenuous expression was given at Riverside in 1934, at the memorable special session in Los Angeles in 1935, and at the later regular session of the same year at Yosemite.

Members of the profession undoubtedly continue to maintain a deep interest in all plans which aim to better the conditions of hospitalization and medical service to those citizens who, because of

† Editorials on subjects of scientific and clinical interest, contributed by members of the California Medical Association, are printed in the Editorial Comment column, which follows.

insufficient income or other reasons, face serious financial and other problems when afflicted with unforeseen illness. On the other hand, there is a widespread and accepted belief that, because of the far-reaching social welfare factors involved, the solution of such medical relief problems as may be challenging both the profession and the laity, must come about through evolution and trial, and not by some of the revolutionary procedures advocated in the academic discussions of the subject. The delegated representatives of the profession, in meetings of the House of Delegates at Coronado, gave expression to their interest in methods of medical practice, through resolutions then submitted. Basing judgment on the votes they gave, there can be little doubt on how goodly a majority of the delegates stood respecting matters of further experimentation with expensive and unsatisfactory surveys, which thus far have led to little more than a startling dissipation of resources which the Association had slowly accumulated in previous years.

The conversations among delegates and attending members gave evidence, too, of the general thought now held by members of the profession, that, while there has been a tremendous agitation on paper, and in the minds of a small number of laity and physicians, concerning the amount and kind of medical and hospital care needed by a limited portion of citizens belonging to the lower-income bracket groups, the propaganda so carried on by some of the proponents of certain health insurance plans had gone to extremes; and that the remedies advocated were not adapted to achieving desirable ends for either the lay public or the medical profession. The Coronado delegates gave no indication of desire to pursue, at the expense of the Association's members, further will-o'-the-wisp or other surveys which, if really needed, might well be carried out through federal, state and local public agencies, rather than at the expense of our physicians, through their constituted organizations. It may be added, also, that, among the majority of the delegates, there was a strong feeling of regret that the delegates who were members of the previous sessions of the House of Delegates should have embarked the Association upon expenditures far in excess of those first proposed and estimated by the salaried survey staff; running, indeed, into so massive a sum of the Association's funds as to be in excess of fifty thousand dollars. Now, that so much has been spent, and there is so little to show therefrom, the realization of what is construed as hasty and ill-advised action becomes more and more apparent. Unfortunately, this change of mind does not bring back, into the Association's treasury, the thousands of dollars expended upon the adventure.

* * *

Practice of Medicine by Corporations, and Inclusion of Medical Services in Hospitalization Insurance Plans.—On the question of medical practice by a corporation—whether the corporation was owned or managed by laymen or members of the medical profession, making no

difference—and also on the inclusion in hospitalization insurance plans of any type of medical work, such as x-ray or clinical laboratory service, the House of Delegates affirmed the stand taken by the American Medical Association at its recent Kansas City session; thereby placing on record the California Medical Association equally and unequivocally against such abuses.

Because of the much increased interest that is shown in hospitalization insurance plans, Assembly Bill 246, now having a place in the statute books of California as Chapter 386, and known as the Nonprofit Hospital Service Bill, is reprinted on page 109 of this issue. Many members of the Association may wish again to read this statute.

* * *

Why State Association Dues Were Increased.—The depleted condition of the State Association treasury, and the imperative need of having funds on hand to enable the organization properly to do its work, led the Council on Monday evening, May 25, to recommend that, for the year 1937, the state assessment be increased by five dollars. The recommendation was referred to the Reference Committee, and its report to the House on Wednesday evening also being in favor, and no delegations or delegates opposing, the assessment was ordered by unanimous vote. Some of the special expenses which it may be necessary to meet in the next two years are publicity campaigns to combat the initiative to open county hospitals of California to all citizens, without regard to their financial status, and the fighting of vicious public health legislation which will probably be brought forward at the next session of the legislature, convening in January, 1937; and also the carrying out of instructions from the Yosemite House of Delegates to place a qualifying certificate (basic science) initiative on the ballots in the state election of 1938, as a deterrent to additional examining boards in cultist and sectarian medicine. Appreciation of important issues such as the above explains the unanimous vote that was given to the change in the state membership assessment.

* * *

New By-Law on Disciplinary Procedure.—Because, during the last several years, two or three component county societies have had rather bitter experiences in their efforts to discipline certain members charged with having been engaged in unethical conduct, the Council of the State Association, realizing the need of an authoritative and exact procedure when disciplinary problems are involved, appointed a special committee to submit such a code to become a part of the by-laws of the State Association, and thus, automatically, also a part of the by-laws of every one of its component county units. This by-law will be incorporated in a new edition of the constitution and by-laws ordered by the Council. Officers and members of component societies are advised to read this new by-law and, in any contemplated disciplinary action, meticulously to govern themselves accord-

ingly. It appears in the minutes of the House of Delegates printed in this number of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE (on page 80).

* * *

Proposed Amendment to the Constitution. A proposed amendment to the constitution, providing for safeguards against future undue expenditures, was the result of a recent sad experience in trying to fulfill instructions given at the Riverside and Los Angeles sessions of the House of Delegates and drawing on the State Association's funds to make the medical costs survey—with no top-limit on the amount of money so to be expended; and this proposed amendment* will come before the House of Delegates at the annual session in Del Monte, 1937.

* * *

All Features of the Coronado Session Were Up to Standard.—These comments on some of the happenings at Coronado are made especially for readers who do not wish to go through the maze of official proceedings as chronicled in the stenographic minutes.

The scientific exhibits were fully up to standard, and the commercial displays likewise happily placed. The near-by San Diego Fair, with its admirable Hall of Medical Science, provided additional social features. The dinner to President Peers saw the spacious dining rooms of the Hotel del Coronado filled to overflowing; and roomy rotundas and porches of the famous caravansary gave all present opportunities without end to meet old and new friends.

In conclusion, it may again be confidently stated that the Coronado annual session was, in its series of meetings of real inspirational value, in every way a great success; and those who were not in attendance may now turn their thoughts to the possibility of participating in next year's session at the Hotel Del Monte in Monterey County.

SUMMER COMMITTEE WORK IN COUNTY SOCIETIES—PREPARATION OF FALL PROGRAMS: COLLECTION OF COUNTY SOCIETY HISTORICAL MATERIAL

Summer Vacation Periods May Be Utilized Advantageously by Committees.—Most county societies discontinue regular meetings during the summer vacation months, the members coming back with increased zest and interest when the scientific meetings resume in the fall. Experience has shown such arrangement to be desirable, but experience has also demonstrated that county society committees, whose members may occasionally meet with one another during these breathing spells, can well plan work sure to enhance the society proceedings when, in the succeeding months, their reports will be submitted.

* * *

Program Committee Should Plan Its Work to Cover the Year.—One such committee whose members have a very definite responsibility

* The amendment has a place in the minutes of the House of Delegates (page 92).

is that "on program." A county society profits greatly if the committee on program plans a co-ordinated group of papers, assigning authors for the topics, so that certain themes of general or special local interest are developed in rounded and instructive form. Of importance, also, is the presentation of patients and specimens in such wise as to elicit stimulating debate; which again brings to mind the advantages to be derived in discussion, when authors submit, in advance of the meetings, their papers to two or three colleagues, with a request that they be prepared to discuss certain phases when called upon by the presiding officer. Hastily gotten together or impromptu medical programs occasionally do measure up to a good standard; but, in the long run, that society has the more valuable meetings whose program committee properly fulfills its functions by carefully planning in advance.

* * *

The Sadly-Neglected Historical Studies of Our State and County Associations.—Another committee which every county society should appoint is the Committee on History, the society secretary being an ex officio member thereof, because he is supposed to be in possession of the organization's records. It is a sad reflection on most of the county units, and even upon the state organization, that so little concerted and result-producing effort should have been made in the past to gather together old record books and other memorabilia which could be utilized as a basis for one or more historical papers for the local societies; copies always being sent, of course, to the State Association for preservation in its own archives. During the coming year the State Association Committee on History aims to start a consistent campaign that will promote the furtherance of historical investigation. The presidents of county societies which do not have history committees are requested to appoint those, or to ask for volunteers, who will start this work during these summer months. If nothing more were done than to find out whether a complete set of secretary records are still in existence, and where they may be found, that in itself would really be something. As a further suggestion, it might be wise to gather together all old record books of county societies and forward them to the State Association offices at San Francisco, where they could be kept for safe keeping and reference, as needed. If some such plan is not followed, then, as in the past, it will become only a matter of time when a local secretary may forget to turn over the old record books, and so allow them to be forgotten and irretrievably lost.

Our State Association was founded in 1856, but, as with so much else in the annals of California, the written records of early days in our possession are practically *nil*. Another instance of our lack of thought for the cultural-historical may be found in the interesting biographical notes, for the first time published in CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, in its May and June issues, concerning Dr. Joseph P. Widney, who in 1871